

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial comment on national and international news in the industrial, educational, and political fields. It is published weekly at 10 cents per copy. The subscription price is \$1.00 per year in advance.

## WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WILLIAM GREEN, President

GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

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## FACING THE FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

This column deals with future because it has. In most cases it is reported in the labor press from one to two weeks after it is written. Therefore, the subject matter must be chosen with an eye to the future rather than the past.

The United States also deals in future because it has. Military plans, diplomatic maneuvers and economic payments must be made in advance of the effective date. The welfare of the nation demands it.

With this preliminary explanation, we wish to call attention now to the current trend of immediate decision on a permanent economic problem which is bound to have far-reaching effects in the future. We refer to the wage problem.

There is one school of thought which preaches—and practices—delay, a school whose faculty is composed of the public members of the National War Labor Board. We fear they are playing with dynamite.

They feel that this is the only time to revise the nation's basic wage policy. They cannot delay any longer because the war is over.

Generous Soul

In fact, one professor of this school of thought has even gone so far as to suggest that it would be too dangerous to comply with wage changes now, and if labor will only wait until the war ends the National War Labor Board would be sure that there would be no more wage increases.

How lovely! How generous! How academic! And how impossible are these plans and benignly complete! Inaction!

The professor forgets that when the war ends and war contracts are cancelled there will be a surplus of labor instead of the present shortage. At each temporary unemployment is bound to come. Perhaps millions will be searching for jobs. Does he think that at such a time it will be economically feasible to decree wage increases? Or would it not be more logical to teach the professor the economic facts of life?

If his reasoning is sound, we are wasting our time holding conference like the one at Dunsmuir, Ohio, and the organization of lasting peace because the war is still on. Yet every one knows how important it is to obtain a permanent agreement. The war is over and the nation is in a state of confusion while the wartime spirit of cooperation still runs high among the United Nations.

Labor begs to differ with the professor because it realizes what it is up against now and what it is up against later. It knows that the cost of living has never stopped going up during the war, and even if it were to stop it would not be long before it would start again because there is a long period of consumer goods—especially food.

Showdown Now!

That is why labor insists on a showdown now—a showdown on the basis of justice to the workers and on the basis of the nation's economic strength during the war.

Every time labor is asked for adjustment of wage rates during the war, a hue and cry has arisen against it. Editorial writers and radio commentators have accused labor of being greedy and of not caring for the nation. They have studiously omitted any mention of the fact that these higher earnings are a result of longer hours and a longer period of 40 hours a week. The purchasing power of higher take-home wages has been nullified by soaring living costs.

Now let us see what's going to happen to take-home wages if the War Labor Board professors have their way and no change is made in the Little Steel formula. A worker earning \$40 a week during the war will earn \$40 for the first forty hours of work and an extra \$12 for eight hours overtime at time-and-a-half, making a total take-home wage of \$52 a week. At the end of the war and overtime disappears, even if the worker is lucky enough to have his hours cut back. That is the end of the line.

But as it looks to us now, in the absence of any such proof, our country has pressed now to get along on \$52 a week can manage to make both ends meet \$40 a week during the post-war period, we'll see very far. If any War Labor Board professor can convince us that the nation's purchasing power will be maintained after the war, we will accept his plan. But we will not accept it if he can't.

Canadian Labor Seeks Security

## As Foremost Post-War Objective

Ottawa, Can.—The "Diamond J" convention of the Canadian Labor Union, Trades and Labor Congress opened here with the avowed post-war goal of creating a new Canadian social security, in which all desiring to work can have employment with good security, that will give them and their families a secure future.

In opening the gathering, President Percy B. Deane, stated there is no question that the majority of the people of Canada are socially and economically better off as a result of the operations of the war than they were a month or two ago. He said that a mighty act had been done in Canada in 1940.

The hottest convention battle so far was over a resolution calling for the creation of a Canadian labor union. Many resolutions had been presented and the subject was discussed for hours.

After a lively debate, the convention instructed its officers to give most serious study to the possibility of achieving one trade union center, which would be able to speak with respect to jurisdictional rights, while at the same time endeavoring to speak with one powerful voice on the Canadian scene.

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## A Non-Partisan Message

Congratulations to the millions of American workers responsible for the record-breaking increase in registration in the industrial centers of the nation.

You have now done half your duty as patriotic American citizens.

The other half of your duty still remains to be completed. That is to go to the polls on Nov. 7 and cast your vote.

The American Federation of Labor is fully confident that the workers of the nation will not leave their labor power at the mercy of the nation's war profiteers. They will vote for the man who will keep the nation's war production program up to the mark.

Only in that way can the friends of labor be elected and the enemies of labor defeated. Only in that way can the interests of the nation's workers be protected in the critical post-war days ahead. Only in that way can our American democracy be fortified and preserved.

Your vote is the power behind America. Don't let your country down.

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## AF Presses For Showdown In Wage Policy Change

### OWI Sets Post-War Formula; Jump Output 35 Percent

Washington, D. C.—Special training programs carried on under Federal auspices equipped about 11,700,000 American workers for tasks in the war production program up to Sept. 1, according to an Office of War Information survey.

Looking forward to the day when this added number of workers with special skills would be seeking post-war employment, the agency asserted that cost-of-production method should be stepped up about 40 percent above 1940 levels if an expanded labor force were to find employment in 1945.

The OWI report was based on information furnished by the Department of Education, Federal Security Agency. It showed that, whereas the labor force in 1940 totaled 58,000,000, the number will have risen to 88,000,000 in the year 1947.

"Thus we shall need to employ several million more people after the war than were employed before Pearl Harbor," the report continued, "if those who want work are to be able to find it."

OWI stated that the Department of Commerce estimated that the country must produce more goods in the post-war period than it did in 1940, if full employment after the war were to be achieved.

Training of war workers in skills which may find adequate post-war work has been carried on under six programs conducted or co-sponsored by the War Relocation Authority's Bureau of Training.

The agency reported that 6,756,239 men and women had received such pre- and post-war training in the past year.

A food production war training program, instructing workers in the principles of farm work, including the repair and maintenance of agricultural machinery, has trained 2,507,265 persons.

More than 1,000,000 have had the benefit of the engineering, science and management war training program given in selected colleges.

Supervisory training, including the training of foremen, has trained about 1,000,000 plants throughout the country, has been giving training to 1,440,000 persons.

Apprentice training was given to an estimated 1,000,000 persons through a system which was placed in some 45,000 plants in the four-year period ended June 30.

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## Refuses To Sit In Single Case Until Final Ruling Is Made

Washington, D. C.—Pressing for a quick showdown on the nation's basic wage policy, the American Federation of Labor Board refused to sit in a single case until a final ruling is made.

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## AFL Asks FCC To Give Green Light To Post-War Television Industry

Washington, D. C.—The AFL urged the Federal Communications Commission to speedily issue a decision on the location of frequencies for television.

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## You Must File New Tax Report

Washington, D. C.—Workers are being notified of Internal Revenue, to file with their employers a new tax report.

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## Speakers To Give XMAS SHOPPING-TIPS

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## SLIGHT CUT IN GOVERNMENT JOBS

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